REMARKS

Formalities

Claims 1-16 are all the claims currently pending in the present Application. Claims 1, 2, and 8-16 stand withdrawn in accordance with the Response to Restriction Requirement filed on April 7, 2005. Therefore, Claims 3-7 are all the claims currently under consideration.

In the current Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges Applicants' claim to foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Further, the Examiner returns a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 submitted with the IDS of December 11, 2003.

Abstract of the Disclosure

In the current Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the Abstract of the Disclosure "is objected to because it is too long." (Office Action, p. 2). The Examiner notes that "it is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited."

Respectfully, Applicants submit that the Abstract of the Disclosure of the current Application is 139 words in length. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw his objection thereto.

Claim Rejections

Claims 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sawayama et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,184,960 ("Sawayama"), in view of Shimada et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,949,507 ("Shimada").

Regarding Claim 3, Applicants submit that the cited combination of references fails to teach or suggest at least a photosensitive organic material layer, as claimed "having a first thickness in the reflection region, a second thickness different from the first thickness in the contact-hole area, and a third thickness different from the first and second thicknesses in the terminal section."

Additionally, the cited combination of references fails to teach or suggest at least exposing a photosensitive organic material layer to light such that the photosensitive organic material layer in the reflection region is exposed at a first exposure value, the photosensitive organic material layer in the contact hole area is exposed at a second exposure value, and the photosensitive organic material layer in the terminal section is exposed at a third exposure value, as claimed.

With respect to the first limitation, the Examiner refers to Sawayama, Figure 22, elements 24 and 29a. First, Applicants note that elements 24 and 29a are not illustrated in Figure 22. Element 24 is illustrated in Figures 7A to 7I and is a photosensitive resin. However, as illustrated, this resin is coated evenly on the glass substrate, rather than having different thicknesses in different regions. Further, to the extent that the resin 24 is removed by UV exposure, there is no teaching or suggestion of first, second, and third thickness as claimed: as described and as illustrated, the resin is either removed where there are holes in the photomask, or it is not removed. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion that this resin is formed in a terminal section. Applicants also note that there is no *element* 29a in Sawayama. *Figure* 29a illustrates a display region and a terminal region of an LCD device, but fails to show any

photosensitive organic material layer formed on any region of the device. Further, there is no teaching or disclosure in Figure 22 or any other portion of Sawayama of any photosensitive organic material layer being formed in a reflection region, a contact-hole area, and a terminal section at different thicknesses, respectively. With respect to the second limitation, the Examiner acknowledges that Sawayama fails to teach or suggest this limitation. (Office Action, p. 4).

Regarding Shimada, the Examiner refers to Figure 4C, element 42a as teaching the claimed limitation of exposing a photosensitive organic material layer such that the photosensitive organic material layer in each of a reflection region, a contact-hole area, and a terminal section is exposed at a different exposure value, respectively. Applicants note that element 42 in Figure 4C is an organic insulating film, but there is no teaching or suggestion that this film is in a terminal section and there is no teaching or suggestion that this film is exposed at different exposure values in different sections. Rather, Shimada describes, as illustrated in Figures 3A to 3F that the composite film 42 is formed by forming a first organic resin layer 12 and exposing it using a first mask 13 to create protrusions 14, and then forming an organic insulating film 15 over the protrusions 14, and exposing the organic insulating film using a second mask 16 in order to form a contact hole. There is no teaching or suggestion of exposing either the resin layer or the insulation film at different exposure values in different regions.

Figures 20A through 20F of Shimada illustrate a driving device 29 to which a resinous material is applied to a thickness of 1 μm. There is no teaching or suggestion that the resinous material, which is baked to form an insulating protective film, is applied to a terminal section,

that it is applied at different thicknesses in different regions, or that it is exposed to light at different exposure values at different regions.

In view of at least the above, Applicants submit that Claim 3 is patentable over the cited combination of references and that Claims 4-7 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 3. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 3-7 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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